

Run - 1,000
5-28-74

Nebraska Weekly Weather & Crop Report



Statistical Reporting Service, USDA
and U.S. Department of Commerce
Environmental Science Services Admin
National Weather Service

Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l Statistics
Agricultural Extension Service
of Nebr. College of Agriculture

Release 5/28/74

Week Ending 5/27/74

WEATHER

Temperatures averaged near or slightly above normal throughout the week. Abundant rainfall occurred the first part of the week and again the last portion of the week over much of the State. The greatest rainfall occurred over the northeast portion of the State where local areas reported up to 5.25 inches. The Panhandle received little or no rainfall.

CROPS

Heavy rains in eastern Nebraska early in the week caused severe soil erosion and some crop damage. Replanting of corn may be necessary in some fields. Strong winds with the heavy rains caused lodging of winter wheat in these areas. Alfalfa weevil continues to be a big problem in southern Nebraska.

Winter wheat is virtually unchanged from last week with 85% of the crop in good to excellent condition. About 60% of the crop has headed but the northern half of the State is mostly in the late boot stage. Hail storms did severe damage to fields in southwestern Nebraska. Hard winds and rain storms caused lodging in some areas. Wheat streak mosaic is spotty in most fields and more prevalent in the south central and southwest districts. Furnas County shows the largest infestation. Downy brome and mustard continue to be problems in some areas.

Corn is 95% planted, nearly the same as a year ago. Normal for this date is 85%. Hard washing rains caused considerable crop damage and soil erosion in areas of eastern Nebraska. Some farmers will need to replant. Farmers are rotary hoeing crusted fields to allow crop emergence and for weed control.

Sorghum is 50% planted, about the same as last year and near normal. Soybeans are 40% planted compared to about 45% a year ago. Thundershowers and rain in some areas have delayed planting progress during the survey week.

Alfalfa and wild hay conditions show little change from last week. Alfalfa hay condition is 12% excellent, 51% good, 28% fair and 9% poor. About 1/4 of the crop has been cut for hay, green chop and dehydration. Some fields are being harvested prematurely in order to control weevils. Alfalfa weevils are still a major problem in southern portions of the State. However, infestations are beginning to level off in some areas. Fields that are heavily infested are being sprayed after the first cutting to prevent more damage and spreading. Wild hay condition is 14% excellent, 64% good, 20% fair and 2% poor.

GENERAL

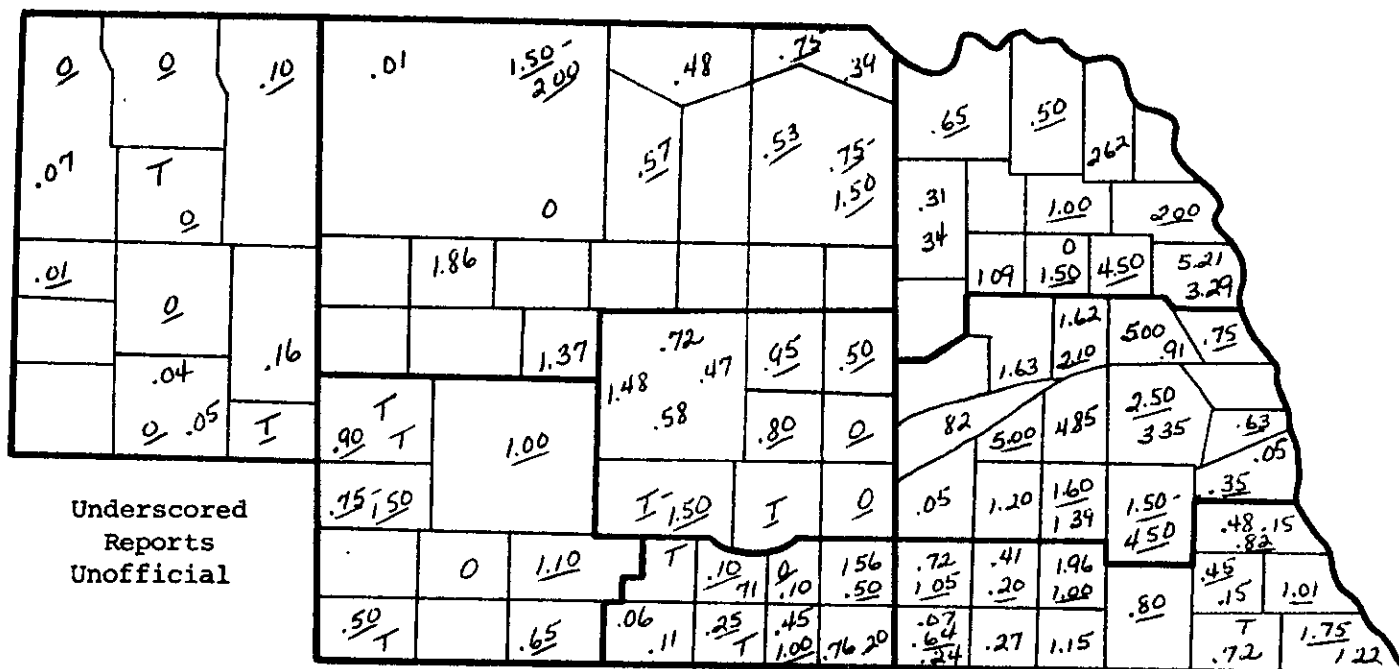
Nebraska farmers and ranchers had 5.5 days suitable for fieldwork during the survey week (May 18-24). Fieldwork was delayed for several days in some areas because of hard washing rains. The main activities were fertilizing, planting row crops, rotary tilling, cutting alfalfa, spraying, working summer fallow, fencing, etc. Soil moisture conditions improved slightly from a week ago because of heavy rains in eastern Nebraska. Topsoil moisture supplies are 48% adequate, 40% short and 12% surplus. The western half of Nebraska continues to be very dry. Farmers have been irrigating sugar beets and corn in much of the Panhandle. Subsoil moisture supplies are 77% adequate, 17% short and 6% surplus.

LIVESTOCK

Pasture and range feed supplies remained nearly unchanged from last week; 80% of counties are adequate, 18% short and 2% surplus. Feed supplies in the Sandhills and Panhandle continue to be mostly short because of the dry weather.

Livestock are in mostly good condition. However, some cattle were lost in flash flooding from recent rains. A few cases of pink eye have been reported. Ranchers have begun spraying cattle for flies, etc.

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING 6:00 A.M. SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1974



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR WEEK ENDING 6:00 P.M. SUNDAY, MAY 26, 1974

Station		Temperature				Precipitation
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches ^{1/}
		Max	Min			
NW	Chadron	83	35	58	--	0
	Scottsbluff	83	36	60	+2	.05
	Sidney	--	--	--	--	--
NC	Burwell	84	40	63	--	1.33
	Valentine	79	38	58	-1	.87
NE	Norfolk	87	47	65	+3	.82
	Sioux City	88	44	65	+2	1.50
CEN	Grand Island	88	49	67	+4	.13
EC	Lincoln	85	49	65	+1	.60
	Omaha	86	46	65	0	.60
SW	Imperial	82	35	63	--	.39
	North Platte	80	38	60	0	1.14

^{1/} Precipitation totals not included in map above.

Precipitation, April 1 - May 24, 1974

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week.....	.10	.80	1.80	.70	1.60	.30	.40	.60
Total since April 1.....	1.80	3.80	5.60	3.50	6.50	1.90	4.10	6.40
Normal since April 1.....	4.05	4.53	5.02	4.85	5.13	4.30	4.87	5.60